(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enact legislations to speed up reforms in judicial system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps initiated to expedite the delivery of justice to the people?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) In order to strengthen the alternative dispute redressal mechanism, and to relieve the burden on Courts, the old Arbitration Act has been replaced by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Also, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, has been enforced with effect from 9.11.1995 under which organization of Lok Adalats has been provided. That apart, in the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, a provision has already been incorporated in new Section 89 which deals with the settlement of disputes outside Court. There are certain provisions in the same Act for curtailing the delay in disposal of cases. However, the provisions of the above Section have yet to be brought into force because a Bill containing certain further amendments in the above Act is pending in the Parliament.

Inclusion of Hyderabad for mass computerisation of courts

4037. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government has sent a proposal to Government requesting that the city of Hyderabad may be included along with Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata for mass computerisation and networking of courts during the financial year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal sent and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for

inclusion of city of Hyderabad in the scheme for mass computerisation and networking of courts during the financial year 2001-2002 on the pattern of the scheme approved for four Metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

Due to constraint of resources, it has not been possible for the Central Government to extend the scheme of computerisation and networking in the subordinate judiciary to other cities. However, under the centrally sponsored scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, the States/UTs are free to utilise the required amount for computerisation within the overall allocation made to the States/UTs.

Policy for appointment of Judges

4038. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government for the appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts and the guidelines issued in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that posts of Judges are not filled up immediately and the vacancies remain vacant for months together;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering a time-bound programme for finalising the names of the Judges a week before vacancy arises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. The Memorandum of Procedure regarding appointment of Judges, which